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BOSTON, March 20, 1877.

SIR:

We desire to enlist the sympathy and aid of Boston in behalf of the NEW YORK SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF VICE. It is doing a noble and successful work, through its able Secretary, Mr. ANTHONY COMSTOCK, in suppressing obscene literature and immoral agencies throughout the whole land. Our Parents and Teachers need to be put on their guard as to the perils to which our children are subjected.

At the same time, it is but fair that as we share in part in the benefits of the Society's work, we should bear our part in its pecuniary support. A meeting will be held at 4 P. M., TUESDAY, March 27th, 1877, at Pilgrim Hall, upper story of Congregational House, corner of Beacon and Somerset Streets.

MR. ANTHONY COMSTOCK will be present and will address the meeting. Other speakers are expected.

We cordially approve of the objects of the meeting, and intending if possible to be present ourselves, beg your attendance.

- REV. PHILLIPS BROOKS, D. D.
- REV. E. E. HALE.
- REV. J. M. MANNING, D. D.
- REV. A. J. GORDON, D. D.
- REV. B. K. PEIRCE.
- REV. A. A. MINER, D. D.
- REV. JAMES REED, D. D.
- REV. GEO. C. LORIMER, D. D.
- REV. E. B. WEBB, D. D.

- RT. REV. BENJ. H. PADDOCK, D. D.
- RUSSELL STURGIS, JR., Esq.,  
*Pres. Y. M. C. Association.*
- WM. H. BALDWIN, Esq.,  
*Pres. Y. M. C. Union.*
- HON. HARVEY JEWELL.
- HOMER SPRAGUE, Esq.,  
*Master Girls' High and Normal School.*
- HON. G. C. RICHARDSON.
- HON. JONA. A. LANE.
- AMOS A. LAWRENCE, Esq.



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# The Suppression of Obscene Literature.

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IN response to a call signed by leading clergymen and citizens of Boston, a meeting was held March 27th, 1877, to hear a statement from Mr. Anthony Comstock, Secretary of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice.

Hon. Josiah Quincy presided, and introduced Mr. Comstock to the assembly. His exposure of the extent and enormity of this evil made a profound impression upon the hearers. The vilest pictures, books, and articles have been traced by him to the best schools and homes in the land. He described the sad influence which a single book whose history he had investigated had exerted during two years among the boys to whom it was secretly loaned. One of its victims will soon be in an insane asylum or in his grave. But Mr. Comstock has seized and destroyed *eight tons* of bound books of this character, and a total of *twenty tons* of obscene matter. No child is secure from the ingenious devices by which unprincipled men and women circulate these wares throughout the land, and pursue their deliberate schemes to destroy the virtue of the young.

Mr. Comstock has the names of over five thousand dealers in these goods, and has seized from a single one of these villains fifty thousand circulars addressed to the youth of both sexes throughout the country.

The facts would be incredible were they not vouched for by the most incontrovertible proofs.

At the conclusion of Mr. Comstock's address the following resolutions were moved and unanimously adopted :

*Whereas,* It is an established fact that scores of men, for money, are devoting their lives to the pollution and moral ruin of the young and innocent, and that the circulation of obscene literature is secretly carried on among the children of both sexes in our public and private schools, invading even the purity of Christian homes ; and,

*Whereas,* It appears that Anthony Comstock, Secretary of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice, has been manifestly raised up by Providence to uncover and thwart this villainous traffic, and that at the peril of his life he has been successful in seizing and destroying many thousands of the most obscene books, pictures, and miscellaneous articles, and in bringing their makers and venders to summary and merited punishment.

*Whereas,* It is evident that Mr. Comstock's work is national and not local in its character ; that this vile traffic is carried on through the mail service which brings the most distant places near ; and that the destruction of the business at its advertising centres will relieve the whole land of its poisonous influence. Therefore be it,

*Resolved,* That we, citizens of Boston and vicinity, hereby express our hearty sympathy, and pledge our coöperation with the work of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice.

*Resolved,* That we thank God for Anthony Comstock, and recognize him as the "Children's Friend," the defender of the purity of our schools and firesides, and the brave and incorruptible foe of the workers of iniquity.

*Resolved,* That we would impress upon Teachers, Parents, and Pastors, the dangers to which the morals of the children and youth under their charge are subjected, and the need of greater watchfulness on their part ; and would urge as far as possible such judicious personal instruction upon these delicate subjects as may tend to fortify the young against temptation.



*Resolved*, That we hereby promise our generous and cordial pecuniary support to this important work; that we advise that an appeal for subscriptions be made in the name of the committee of gentlemen who signed the call for this meeting, and that the Rev. Frederick B. Allen be requested to act as Financial Secretary, to receive public contributions and forward them to the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice.

An earnest appeal is hereby made to our citizens for subscriptions in aid of this work. Two years ago, the sum of One Thousand Dollars was secured as Boston's "fair annual contribution to this noble cause." As the annual expenses of the Society amount to Six Thousand Dollars, and no contribution was made by our city last year, it would seem fair that we should endeavor to furnish *Two Thousand Dollars* at this time. Subscriptions will be acknowledged in the public press.

Address,

REV. FRED'K B. ALLEN,

Care of ALLEN, LANE & Co.,

266 Devonshire St., Boston.

#### COMMITTEE.

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